The Lions' Pride

Saint Leo University • Friday, April 13, 2018 • Volume LVII No. 26 • Since 1965

Looking Ahead with the Provost

John Hall and Collin Moran
Layout Editor/Sports Editor

Since his arrival, Dr. Jeffrey Senese has met with numerous members of faculty and staff, also opening his doors to students, all in an effort to make positive change within the University.

As the semester winds down, students and professors alike have begun preparation for final exams, presentations and for those hard-working individuals that have braved four (or more) years at Saint Leo, graduation. However, one member of Saint Leo University's administration has just gotten into the rhythm of the work he has cut out for him. Dr. Jeffrey Senese, Senior vice president of Academic Affairs and Provost, has been on the ground in the early morning hours and late afternoons making several assessments within and around University Campus.

Senese, who has a myriad of positions and skills on his C.V., said he chose Saint Leo as his new school because of the home-like feeling he received as he visited the campus. Senese juxtaposed other college campuses stating of Saint Leo, "This place felt better, the people felt better; there was more of a community here, more of a connection here. It wasn't a job. It wasn't a business in that way."

Enamored by the experience, Senese welcomed the opportunity to become a part of Saint Leo's family and has started to integrate himself into the life of the campus. One of the areas in which he has begun to incorporate himself has been within the athletic community. Senese said, "I think I've tried to attend as many athletic contests as I can. Basketball was a bit easier because it occurred on the weekends. And I've attended lacrosse, in particular; I like those games."

However, his assimilation into University Campus is not limited to sporting events. "I've gone to the play that occurred in the fall [The Secret in the Wings], and I try to go to as many student events that my schedule allows, as I know about. I know at the end of the academic year there is typically senior presentations which I will try to go to as many as those as I can, including dissertation or master defenses." Senese also mentioned having lunch with the abbot as well. Most satisfying with Senese's initial stint on campus is his affirming that "as much as I can connect to the institution, I will."

Senese's first months on campus have been filled with numerous meetings with staff, faculty and students. Advertised on numerous bulletin boards around campus, Senese opened his door to students where they could sit and speak with him one-on-one, voicing their concerns. Senese explained, "I have established open office hours for students on a scheduled basis. It doesn't mean that it's the only time that I'll talk to students, but it's a routine block of time that is open to [them]. What I told [my] staff is if there is a group of students and they want to talk as a group that is fine; if it's an individual, that's fine."

Additionally, Senese has tried to foster the grounds for better communication between staff as well, stating, "I've created a couple of structures to help us communicate better. The first one is Dean's counsel, the three Deans and I sit at a table and talk about academic policy issues, faculty and retention issues and how we can support faculty and students better."

With a multitude of productive meetings already accomplished and many more to come, Senese erred from revealing the many ideas and actions that will be taken in the weeks and months. However, Senese shared one opinion stating, "A group of faculty came to me and said, 'we want a refresher course in research methodology. We want to understand it more deeply because we are going to be teaching graduate students, doctoral students; so, we want this approach to be not about training us on how to use D2L, but help us refresh our memories and practice in research methodology.' And I said 'OK, great."

Additionally, Senese spoke about the types of programs that could potentially be implemented at Saint Leo. He indicated that most universities of Saint Leo's size have programs such as health sciences, engineering or technology degrees, so, it would make sense to provide these specific degrees for our students. "On the health science side, I would say nursing makes sense for this institution. So, part of the goal is going to be expanding programmatic options, like

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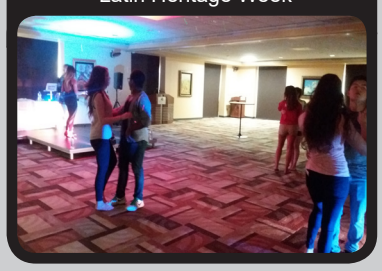
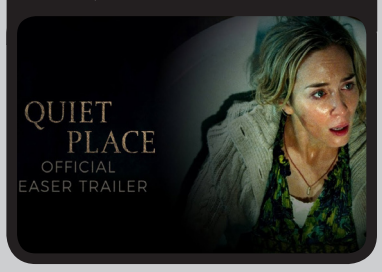


A Quiet Place Movie Review



Online This Week:
Ready Player One Video Movie Review

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Campus

Looking Ahead Cont'd.

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nursing and other health science programs. Maybe not traditional engineering like electrical engineering or mechanical, but more digitally based engineering [such as] software development and on the hardware side, network engineering," he stated. Sense stated his belief that there is room at Saint Leo for these sorts of programs in addition to more higher-level programs. "I think increasing the breadth of what we are doing at that level makes a lot of sense right now," said Senese.

Senese went on to explain Saint Leo's APR process that goes through and reviews each of our academic programs. "I think that's important and I want to make sure that we are paying attention to how we make improvements in every single one on whatever routine we can and that we make investments in making those improvements. That includes not just degree programs, but student support services [like] advising and disability," said Senese.

When Senese was asked about how he would help cater to commuter students who felt disconnected from the campus, he had a few different ideas. Senese talked extensively about possibly adding special commuter-only lounges on campus that would be an inviting place for those students to hang out when they had free time. At some of the previous institutions that Senese worked at, they had special commuter lounges with lockers, comfortable furniture and televisions that they could hang out at throughout their days. Senese indicated that Saint Leo should look into an idea such as this.

There was also talk about creating a ride-sharing service for campus students to get to downtown Tampa. Senese explained that he helped to start a program called "Zip Car" at two of his previous institutions in which students could pay to rent cars on campus for the day.

There is a lot that the administration is looking into as far as improving the experience for commuter students and resident students who do not own cars.

There have been students asking about non-federal work-study job positions on campus—mainly international students—and what Senese can do to expand positions here at Saint Leo. While Senese does agree many of our positions get filled quickly, he explained there are still open jobs with dining services and plant operations. He explained that the money that goes into non-federal work-study (or University Employment) is controlled by the university, but they need to get funding to provide more of these jobs. Senese was not opposed to creating more positions, "So, if we can find additional sources of funding to have more student workers on campus, we would certainly be open to that." For the time being he encourages students to contact plant operations or dining services about positions that still need to be filled.

Senese then went on to talk about scholarship opportunities, after being asked if the administration was planning on increasing the amount for university students. "Yeah, we are always looking at that and would like to help more; we do the best we can with what we have to work with and trying to add to that overtime." He explained that the University Advancement office focuses on raising money from donors to help the students here. Senese said that the University is always looking for money to help our students pay for tuition and that the amount of money should grow over time. "It's over $20 million we give in institutional aid; so, it's not just federal financial aid to make Saint Leo more affordable for students; and we expanded that number over time, and we continue to do as students' need drives it."

When the topic of our University centers and worldwide community came up, Senese had a plan on how he was going to connect with these different locations. "I made a commitment that I am going to go to every single center between now and next January." Senese went on to say that with the exception of a few military centers, he should have visited almost every location within his first year of being here. He believes that by going to these locations he can understand what Saint Leo University is as a whole by simply asking 'What do you think needs to be done at your location?' Senese also reflected on his visit to a new center opening recently, "I went to the opening of the Jacksonville [center a] couple weeks ago and visited with the faculty and staff that were up there. That's important. If this [is] one university, and it is one university, that's the kind of connection we need to have."

Photo by @SaintLeoLions

Basketball is one of the many sports on campus Dr. Senese has taken time out to watch as he adjusts to the Saint Leo community.

When asked about what he will be doing as Provost, Senese explained "I was hired for a certain reason with certain responsibilities; and then as things got done and other things emerged, I've been able to focus on those additional things that needed to be done for the University. My focus is really on the University." One thing in particular that Senese was very passionate about is the opportunity he sees for the University campus to increase its student retention. By growing the student population, the University campus will be able to expand the amount of activities that are offered to students. "I'm not talking about making this place a large university campus but larger than it is because if there was more students here there would be more activity, more people engaged in activity throughout your experience here; so, weekends would feel more robust if there were more students here." Senese sees a lot of opportunity to be able to do more with what we have here on main campus, but also exclaimed that he wants to improve more at the centers as well. "So, I am not the Provost of this office or this campus but the Provost for the entire University. So, helping the University get to the point where all academic experiences, all faculty experiences are as similar as they can be across the University such as that it is online, the centers [and] here."

Photo by @SaintLeo.edu

Having visited the Jacksonville Center for its opening, Dr. Senese continues to look at initiatives that bridge the divide between University Campus and Centers for Online Learning (COL).

Editoral

Does Hollywood Remake too Many Classics?

Cassandra Reed
Contributing Writer

Remake this, remake that. Remake seems to be that buzz word we all think of these days when some of today's hottest movie trailers are released. It is no secret that Hollywood has this crazy obsession with remaking movies or coming out with sequel after sequel, after sequel. It seems like a never-ending trend that is only growing. However, is this necessarily a terrible thing? Do you think Hollywood is making too many? Most people will either get excited to see a new rendition of their favorite movie or get very discouraged thinking the movie industry is going to ruin the film entirely.

Many people are disappointed when the new remake they are excited for flops because it does not show the original film any justice. You should not jump to the notion that Hollywood needs to stop with these remakes and sequels. Instead, ask yourself this: 'if revenue is accumulating off these movies, why not continue to do what works?' It would be stupid not to try to keep making just as much money, if not more, remaking it. When speaking of movie remakes, Jacob Bogage of The Washington Post says, "They have inborn marketing advantages, and what's more, they're relatively cheap." It costs less to have an idea that is already there which gives more opportunity to bring in revenue.

It is easier for Hollywood to take an already successful idea and work with it, or piggyback off a movie to make a sequel, than it is to create a whole new one. When a film has been successful, people will speak highly of it, and there is a great chance the remake or sequel will be in the conversation as well. Keep in mind, the talk about these movies certainly cannot determine that what is said will be positive.

When asked his opinion on this whole phenomenon of Hollywood creating too many remakes, Jarred Pernier, a junior communications major, had this to say, "No matter how much you try, you can never go wrong with the original." That's a pretty valid point, although, many people do not realize that the movies they have come to love, and think are the original, are just remakes of much earlier films that they haven't seen. One example is the famous 1983 film "Scarface." Yes, that's right, Al Pacino is not the original Tony Montana! The original movie was released in 1932 and took place in Chicago instead of Miami.

After taking a step back, Hollywood also seems to have this obsession with creating sequels to movies that were once a hit, but does that mean the sequel will be as successful? Maybe not, just look at Tim Burton's 2016 "Alice Through the Looking Glass," the sequel to his 2010 release of "Alice in Wonderland" (which happens to be a remake of the animated film from 1951). The 2010 film made over $1 billion while its 2016 sequel made just under $300 million with a 29 percent rating from the hard-to-please Rotten Tomatoes. Tim Burton is a fantastic director, but this may not have been his best work.

Regarding Hollywood making too many sequels, everyone can list at least a few movies that seem to have inspired a never-ending plotline, a few of these movies include "Saw," "The Fast and the Furious" and finally, "Godzilla" with an insane 32 films. With all these films coming out one after another is it too much? Well, if you look at these movies and compare the earliest to the most recent of its kind, you will quickly see that even after all these sequels, most of the movies are still doing just as well as when they first released.

"Saw's" first movie made $103.9 million at the box office and the latest addition, "Jigsaw," made a close $102.9 million. The "Fast and the Furious" made $363.2 million with a massive rise to $1.63 billion in its most recent film "Fate of the Furious." When taking a look at the money made in these films, it is clear to see Hollywood may be on the right path with making all of the remakes and sequels we can find today, even if they may not sit well with some critics and fans.

For a list of movie remakes continue to monitor The Lions' Pride online at:
Lionsprideonline.com

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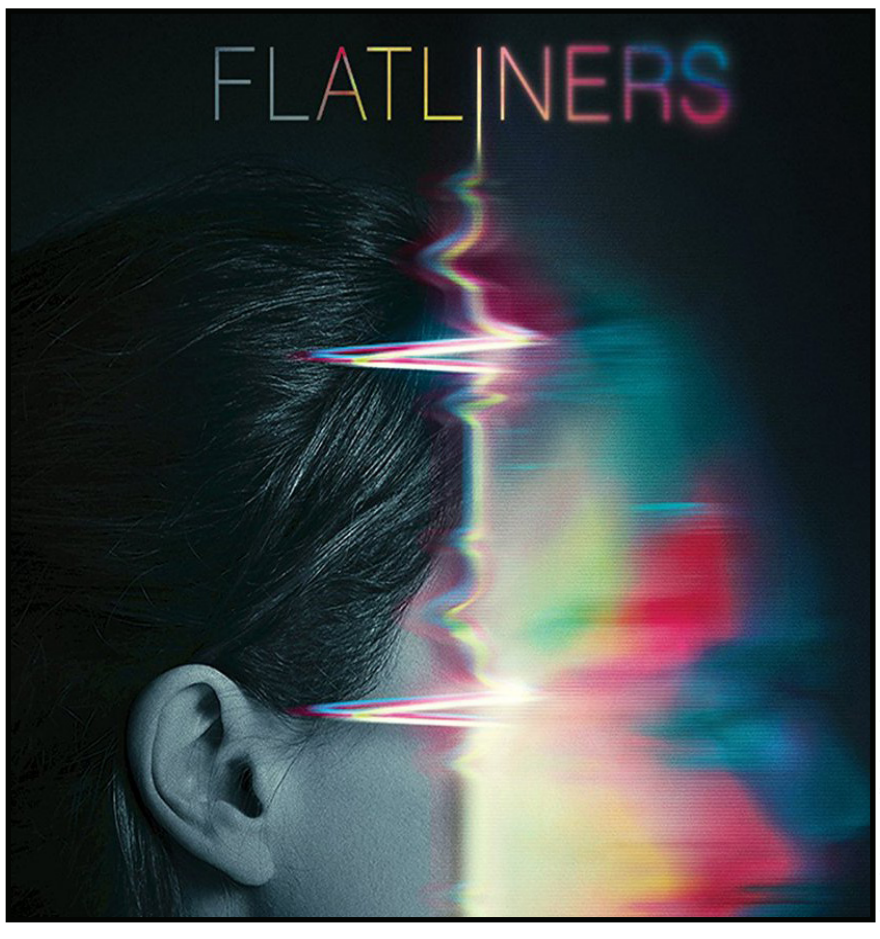


Photo by @@steelbookZombie

Many Hollywood remakes of classic movies failed catastrophically, like 2017's "Flatliners," holding a 5 percent critic average rating on movie aggregate Rotten Tomatoes.

Campus

Saint Leo Celebrates Latin American Heritage Week

By Rebecca Hugh
Advertising Manager

The Multicultural and International Service Office (MISO), along with many co-sponsors, hosted a series of events to commemorate Latin American Heritage Week. Saint Leo University is diverse in its student population and this was one of the many opportunities for students to be exposed to another culture.

Monday

To kick off the week, MISO held their first event April 2. MISO student workers, Bianca Novotona an MBA student in Supply Chain and Global Integration Management and Carla Sanchez, a freshman studying political science, along with a few members of the National Society of Minorites in Hospitality (NSMH) chapter of Saint Leo, instructed students on how to "Make Their [Your] Own Maracas."

The activity on a whole was campaigned to showcase a musical aspect of Latin American culture. Between the hours of 12 p.m. to 2 p.m., students visited the table located in the dining hall lobby. They were given the chance to make their own version of the well-known instrument using simple household items.

"MISO provides engaging activities for the student body to promote cultural awareness," said Novotona. "And, as we are celebrating Latin American Heritage Week, I think this is a fun and creative DIY project that not only shows how easy it is to make your own maraca, but also highlights the historical importance of the musical instrument and its influence on Latin America's music and cultural traditions."

Students took to the easy activity and proudly shook to the rhythm of their self-made maracas.

Tuesday

The following day, April 3, MISO, along with Goizueta Scholars, adorned the SCC boardrooms with colorful informational boards and food from various countries.

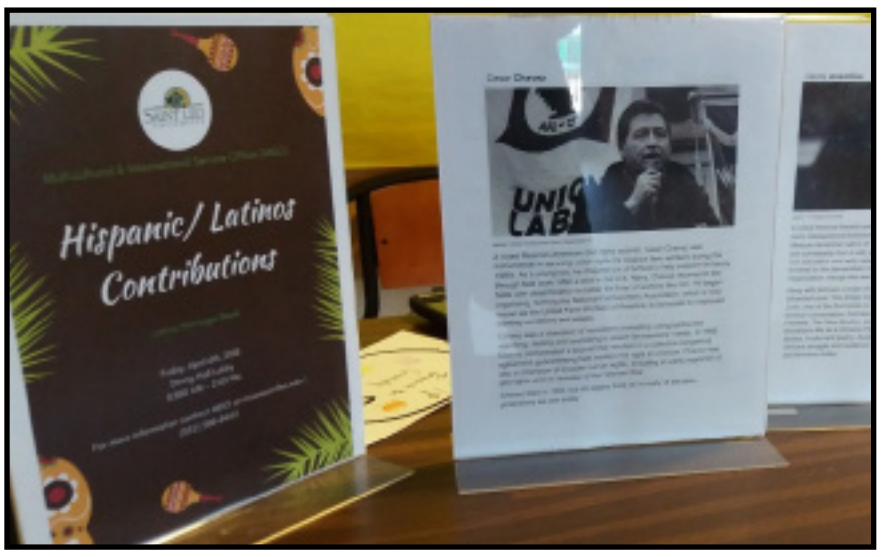
The Goizueta Scholars are Goizueta Foundation scholarship recipients here at the University, who benefit by being awarded aid for financial assistance. The foundation gives those students an opportunity to continue their education to succeed. And, like the foundation's mission to motivate and inspire young people to learn, MISO in collaboration with the Goizueta Scholars, created informational boards on each respective scholars' country of decent.

Some of the countries that were highlighted included the Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Ecuador and Puerto Rico.

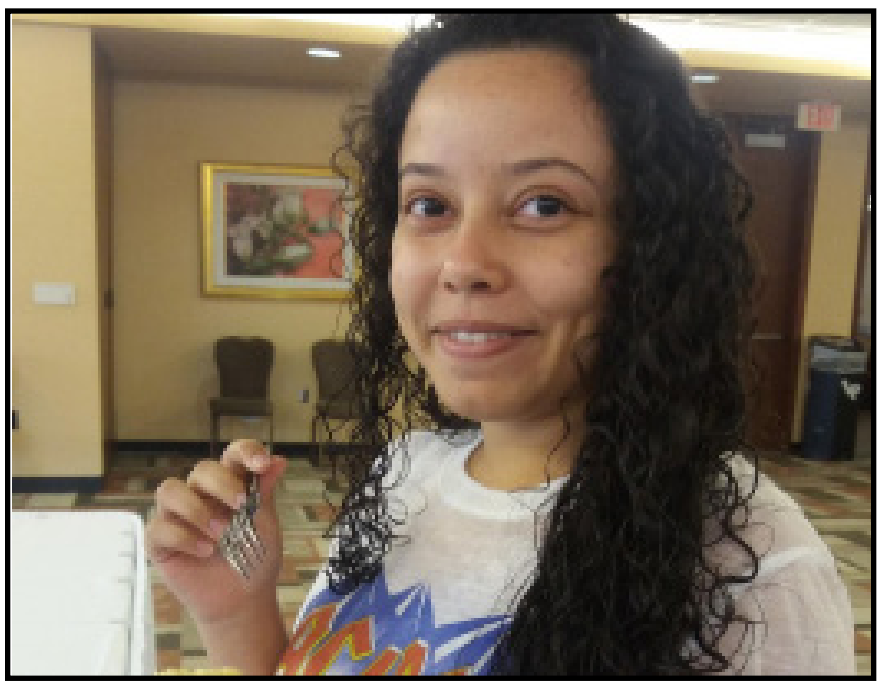
While moving to the Latino music, students danced their way to the different stations. Each station represented a different Goizueta Scholar's country, which touched on many different aspects such as religion, popular meal, traditional music/dances, the history, the economy, the food and other fun historical facts about that country.

"This was not only an opportunity for the Goizueta scholars to showcase their different Latino cultures," said Paige Ramsey-Hamacher, the Executive Director of Student Success. "But also for students at the University who are not able to travel, to take advantage of this educational opportunity."

Not only did students collect informational brochures/flyers from each station, but also a new-found appreciation for Latino culture and the taste of a scrumptious tres leches cake.



Between the hours of 11:30am to 2:00pm, students stopped by the table in the dining hall lobby to learn more about numerous Hispanic/Latinos influential figures and their multiple contributions.



Joandra L. Torres Gonzalez, a freshman majoring in hospitality, went back for seconds after trying the tres leches cake made by dining services.

Wednesday

Photo by Rebecca Hugh

Many of the 1 1/2 inch worry dolls made by students and faculty will come in handy during finals when stress levels are high.

Campus

The dancing duo teaches interested students a few dance combos to various Merengue, Salsa and Bachata dance styles.

Dance class is in session! On April 4, many students came out for a night filled with Salsa Magic. MISO, co-sponsoring with the Student Activities Board, transformed the SCC boardrooms into Club Leo: Latin Edition.

Many enjoyed the 90 minutes of informational, interactive Latin dance lessons by professional Latin dancers Lee "El Gringuito" Smith Jr and Kat La Gata Aguilar Smith.

Previously, the married couple taught in over 800+ cities around the world, teaching various styles of Latin dance: Merengue, Bachata, and Salsa.

The experienced duo definitely brought their energetic love of dance to Leo. DJ Ginguito played the latest Merengue, Bachata, Salsa, Reggaeto, and today's hits. He kept the vibes and everyone on their toes.

Followed by a series of performances by Smith and his wife, they then broke down the complex dance moves for everyone to learn. After picking up an appetite from learning a few dance combinations, students had the chance to take a little break and grab some croquetas (a small breadcrumb fried roll with ham or vegetables), churros and nachos with salsa/ cheese.

"I think dance is important because it's a part of our culture, it is who we are," said Edna Hernandez, a sophomore majoring in accounting and minoring in hospitality, who is also a Latina herself. "MISO's event was definitely important. It showed the diversity of the Latino culture through dance but also by having food from different countries, like the croquetas from Cuba. It also brought the student body together, everyone learning a new culture and everyone meeting different students with different backgrounds."

Students not only enjoyed Smith Jr's comedy but his energetic teaching style, all while learning the cultural roots of the different dances and having a fun time.

"Do a body roll, because you can!" said Smith. One of his many spoken antics that humored people.

Thursday

Legend has it that if you tell all your worries to a worry doll and put the doll under your pillow at night, the doll will make your worries go away the next morning. Wouldn't life be amazing if that was true? However, according to the Guatemala legend, the worry dolls have the ability to remove the worries from sleeping children.

The worry dolls are tiny, handcrafted dolls, which stand at 1 1/2 to 1 inch tall. In between eating lunch and walking to class, students stopped by the tabling event in the dining hall lobby to make their own worry doll.

Made with simple crafting tools, students could personally design their own worry doll from yarn, various color and patterned fabric, embroidery floss, fuzzy sticks and beads.

"I am definitely worried about finals, I will be placing my worry doll under my pillow tonight," explained Joshua Williams a sophomore majoring in business management.

Friday

To wrap up the week of celebration, MISO decided to dedicate the last day of merriment highlighting Hispanic/Latino Contributions.

Some who were mentioned included Puerto Rican born baseball player and humanitarian, Roberto Clemente, Latina motivational speaker and rare disease advocate, Lizzie Velásquez, white house policy director, Cecilia Munoz, astronaut, Ellen Ochoa, Latino Performer Gloria Estefan, noted feminist theorist and author, Gloria Añzaldua and noted Mexican-American civil rights activist Cesar Chavez.

A short description of each were written up and placed in double-side stand-ups for students and faculty to read.

Overall, the focus for this week was to highlight Latino culture present on campus and to educate the student body and faculty on the diversity and rich culture of Latino heritage. It was an educational yet fun filled week that for sure made a lasting impact on a few.

For additional photos from Latin American Heritage Week visit TLP at:
thelionsprideonline.net

From the left, Zachary Roberson, Bianca Novotona and Carla Sanchez are all smiles with their own self-made maracas.

Photo by Rebecca Hugh

Arts & Entertainment

The Sound of Silence: "A Quiet

Emily Kochanski
Campus News Editor

Silence is not only golden but potentially life-saving. This is the idea behind "A Quiet Place," an inventive new horror flick directed by and starring John Krasinski. The film also stars Emily Blunt, Millicent Simmonds and Noah Jupe.

This suspenseful thriller follows the Abbott family and their fight to survive a deadly alien invasion. Earth is now home to a race of terrifying extraterrestrial creatures that hunt purely by sound alone. The foursome lives in total silence, protected by a system of rules and regulations that keep them fed, clothed, silent and safe. But when the unexpected occurs, the Abbotts find themselves separated and struggling to survive one fateful night. They must work together to defend their home without uttering a single scream.

The film is suspenseful, smart and utterly tragic. The opening scene masterfully blends horror and heartbreak. There is more than terror and jump scares to this fright flick. "A Quiet Place" also explores touching themes such as disability, love and loss.

The film is genuinely scary but is at times more frustrating than it is frightening. Watching the Abbotts stifle their shrieks and powering through one deadly situation after the next makes for one intense nail-biter of a flick. Blunt's character especially finds herself in some harrowing situations that will have audiences doing the screaming for her. The action continuously builds, assuring that not a second of interest is lost. And though the dialogue is minimal, the unique storyline and commanding dramatics draw the audience in and doesn't surrender them until the credits start to roll.

Krasinski and Blunt's real-life romance makes for some brilliant on-screen chemistry between the two. Krasinski's acting is as powerful as his directing is clever, but it is Blunt who truly rules the screen. The mother is thrust into moment after moment of peril and overcomes each with a masterful, convincing and relatable performance. She makes you cringe, and she makes you cry in the instances that her character can't. Young Simmonds too proves to be a remarkable talent. Just like her character, Simmonds is deaf, which makes her portrayal frighteningly realistic. She is a shining and bold new addition to the cinema.

Speaking of bold, "A Quiet Place" makes a courageous leap as a semi-silent film and sticks the landing effortlessly. It's lack of noise and dialogue forces the audience to focus on the smaller, yet more crucial aspects of the film such as facial expression and body language, direction and camera work. The utter silence also helps to create an edgy, stressful and deeply unsettling atmosphere, which makes the film's few jumpscares really pop. The monsters themselves, a cross somewhere between the Predator and the Demogorgon from "Stranger Things," are shown just enough to remain a relevant part of the film without taking too much attention away from the cast, but also stay hidden enough to establish the level of suspense that the story is built around.

The film's ending is unexpected but also deeply satisfying. Pay close attention to the final moments. In a film where emoting is acting, this single glance from mother to daughter boasts a message of hope after a trying ordeal with an underlying tone of female empowerment, making it one of the flick's truly applause-worthy moments.

All in all, "A Quiet Place" is a smart, original and much welcome breath of fresh air in the horror genre. It's truly a silent film for the modern era that demands your attention and, once it's gripped you, refuses to let go. "A Quiet Place" speaks volumes with nary the use of a single word.

Film Rating:
5 out of 5 Paws

Photo by @quietplacemovie

Things get a little loud while Lee Abbott (John Krasinksi) and his son Marcus (Noah Jupe) are traversing the forest on the hunt for food.

Photo by @quietplacemovie

Expectant mother Evelyn Abbott (Emily Blunt) finds herself in a horrific situation when she is left to defend the homestead alone.

Book Recommendations: Mythology

Krisitn L. Vitagliano
Contributing Writer

Preteen Fiction

"The Red Pyramid" ("The Kane Chronicles" #1) by Rick Riordan:
Carter and Sadie Kane are brother and sister, and Egyptian magicians. The Kane siblings learn about their Egyptian heritage as well as Egyptian gods, goddesses and culture in this complete trilogy.

"Aru Shah and the End of Time" ("Pandava Quartet" #1) by Roshani Chokshi:
Aru Shah is a 12-year-old who wants to fit in. When she gets dared to light a lamp, she learns that the stories are true. Based on Hindu and Indian mythology, book one was just released March 27, 2018.

Young Adult Fiction

"Antigoddess" ("Goddess War" #1) by Kendare Blake:
The Greek gods are dying. Athena and Hermes aren't giving up on figuring out why. Starring Greek deities and characters like Cassandra of Troy, this complete trilogy takes the well-known Greek myths and breathes new life into them in a modern-day setting.

"The Alchemyst" ("The Secrets of the Immortal Nicholas Flamel" #1) by Michael Scott:
Book one of a six-book series, "The Secrets of the Immortal Nicholas Flamel" follows Sophie and Josh Newman as they meet famous characters throughout history and learn about magic and life. With famous figures like Joan of Arc, Niccolo Machiavelli and William Shakespeare making appearances, the siblings' journey is never dull.

Adult Fiction

"Norse Mythology" by Neil Gaiman: "Norse Mythology" follows the Norse Gods as they deal with Ragnarok, also known as the end of the world. Gaiman gives the myths his creative spin, and for those who don't like series, this can be read as a stand-alone.

"The Grass Dancer" by Susan Power: Ms. Power's book is based on Sioux Nation stories. Sioux people are from the Dakota's and based in North Dakota. This stand-alone is full of magic, romance and drama that makes this worth reading in one sitting.

Arts & Entertainment

A Sea of Disappointment

Austin Chiavaroli
Contributing Writer

Photo by @SeaofThieves

Players can choose voyages from three factions in this game: the gold hoarders, the merchant alliance and the order of souls.

Pirates have made an abundance of appearances in the past in the gaming industry. Whether they were enemies players had to deal with, or characters players have controlled, pirates are a fun topic on which to base a game. However, there haven't been too many pirate games where the player can be themselves and roam around sailing with friends to do what pirates do best: solve maps, find treasure and duel in naval warfare. "Sea of Thieves" tries its best to give the players just that: a true pirating experience where players can go and be their own kind of pirate. Created by the famous game developing company, Rare, and published by Microsoft Studios, this game brings players together for swashbuckling adventures on the high seas.

While there is no plot to the game, the player's main objective is to level up his reputation with three factions: the gold hoarders, the merchant alliance and the order of souls. The gold hoarders will give players voyages that require navigation skill to find the island with the "X" mark where a chest can be dug up. This guild also gives voyages where players must solve riddles to where a chest can also be shoveled up. The merchant alliance deals with trading animals and materials to certain outposts by specific times. In these voyages, players must take cages to certain islands that house the animals asked for, and then they must safely bring them to the required outpost. The order of souls gives players bounties of past pirate captains who are now skeleton bosses. They can sail to the island where the skeleton captain was last seen and face a few waves of skeleton enemies until the captain appears and obtain their skull to trade in for gold.

These voyages will give players the opportunity to earn gold and heighten the reputation in each faction. Players can continue to earn gold as there will be either more bounties, chests or animals to trade. There are also different types of skulls and chests that will give players more gold than a regular chest or skull. Players can then use this gold to buy cosmetic items such as outfits, peg legs, eyepatches, nicer looking equipment and cosmetic ship looks. While none of these make a player stronger than any other, they do make them look stylish whilst sailing the ocean.

"Sea of Thieves" gives players the choice of four weapons from which to choose: a cutlass that works as a melee weapon, a blunderbuss (shotgun), a flintlock pistol and a sniper rifle. Players also have the cannons on their ship to use when going against others in naval warfare. This game relies heavily on players working together and is a lot more difficult and less rewarding when playing alone. Players have two ships they can crew up on. One of these is a sloop, which is small for only one or two players where everything on board such as the anchor, sail controls and helm are close by for quick reach. However, being small, there is only one cannon on each side of the ship so naval warfare can be brutal and the ship can be easily lost if not strategically used. The other option is a galleon, which is for three to four players to captain. These have more cannons and fire powers and are harder to sink; however, the sails, anchor and helm are far away from each other and require full crew communication and cooperation to sail correctly. The map on a galleon is below deck, unlike the sloop where it can be seen at the helm, so a galleon captain must rely on someone to be a navigator.

The soundtrack for this game is beautiful as well, having many songs played on a hurdy-gurdy, or a concertina, giving the official pirate feel. This, along with the beautiful visuals of the water and the artistic look of the characters, gives players a colorful and bright sailing experience.

While there are a lot of good things about this game, there are also a lot of issues. One of the biggest issues is the large lack of content this game currently needs. Being in years of development and beta testing, many players believed this game would hold their attention for hours. However, with repetitive voyages that get tiring fast and not many variations of enemies, the game can quickly become boring, which isn't right, seeing as people spent $60 for the game. Another issue is the large amount of bugs and connection issues that the game still has. Once more having years to be made, there was still significant connection issues with management shutting down servers for long amounts of time in the week of release. This has caused many potential players to drop the game entirely and not buy it.

While "Sea of Thieves" can be a lot of fun with friends and make for a lot of shenanigans, there just isn't much there for players to keep returning. While the game developers have DLC cosmetics coming soon and plan to add more to the game, people are fearing that too many new games will come out by then, leaving this game to sit and be forgotten. If you're a fan of pirating and have some friends interested in playing, then this game is for you, but if you don't care too much for sailing with friends, then this game is a skip.

Video Game Rating:
3 out of 5 Paws

Sports

Four Season Softball Success

Vincent Pensabene
Sports Editor

Photo by @SaintLeoLions

Coach Erin Kinberger has good reason to celebrate, she is the first coach to win the SSC title back to back.

The Saint Leo University Softball program has been showing consistent success in head coach Erin Kinberger's first four seasons. With their win in the first half of their doubleheader April 7, the Lions had secured their fourth consecutive 30-win season. They currently sit at 31-10 and are riding a six-game win streak of their own. Kinberger took a moment to reflect on her team's success while she has been coaching the Lions.

"I'd just like to take a moment to thank all of the women who have played for us over the past four years. Thank you for believing in us (coaches) and giving us the opportunity to give back to the sport and to each of you- who we desire to give the best experience possible," Kinberger said. "Thank you for understanding and staying 'on board' when that great experience doesn't feel so great. Winning is not easy, and at times, requires thick skin, accountability, harsh realities, bloody elbows and knees, but through the tough times, we've been able to watch all of you experience greatness on the field and in life. Thank you for letting us be tough on you, so you can have the best version of yourself and SLUSB."

The team has been absolutely dominant defending their home turf, going an incredible 19-2 in those games thus far, which helped the Lions reach No. 24 in the NFCA (National Fastpitch Coaches Association) in Division II softball. Kinberger credits the success to team chemistry.

"We have a lot of individual talents, but the team understanding that individuals don't win in softball has proven to this team that teamwork and dedication to SL-US-B is the No. 1 focus."

Kinberger has been a winning coach in the seven years that she has been coaching. She had at least 30 wins every season except for one, where she was one win shy of it, (29). She boasts a career 253-96 record as of this writing. Kinberger humbly gives credit to the team's culture and her assistant coaches.

"SLUSB's ability to have consistent success is most definitely due to the team's culture. Their determination and dedication to excellence and love for one another are key factors in their culture. Another factor is having talented assistant coaches who each bring a high level of game knowledge to various aspects of the game, a standard of excellence that is unwavering and a true commitment to each student-athlete on and off the field."

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"MLB: The Show" Review

Vincent Pensabene
Sports Editor

With the Major League Baseball (MLB) season is about to start up, the gaming world gets to see the newest sports game, "MLB: The Show 18." This year's installment of the franchise was released to players who preordered the game March 23 and to everyone else March 27.

One big focus that the development team wanted to fix was the server issues that plagued the game last year. Last year, the servers were wishy-washy for the first month of the game's release and scared a lot of players away from returning to the game. This year, the team announced they were using multiple servers to eliminate the issues and even created an Alpha in December 2017 to test solutions for this issue. Throughout first pitch weekend, exclusive to gamers that pre-ordered the game, the servers were relatively stable, though players reported being disconnected from the game for several minutes.

A big thing that the developers of the game decided to do was revamp their "Road to the Show" series, a single player, offline game mode that gives players the chance to go from a high school product trying to be drafted to the MLB to a Hall-of-Famer. A major focus on the game mode was making it more realistic. Instead of being able to max out a created player with 99 overalls across the board, there are now attribute limits depending on the position the player chooses. Another new feature is the player archetype system. This was introduced by 2k Sports, but models what the created player's attribute can max out compared to real MLB players. The game also completely eliminated micro-transactions from the mode to focus on grinding the game instead of buying a great player.

In their fantasy team building mode "Diamond Dynasty," they added a new series of cards called Immortals. These players showcase some of the best players in MLB history at each position and reward the player for actually playing the game, compared to spending money to open packs and hope to get a great player. "MLB: The Show" introduced 50 new legends into the game and helped eliminate the issue of seeing the same players on everyone's team. Another huge issue that plagued last year's installment was the abuse of created players. In 2017's installment, someone could max out their created player at 99 overall and the created player would excel all over the field. Now, the game has certain caps for the attributes similar to "Road to the Show."

Franchise mode returns but only in an offline setting, which was disappointing to see as many people were hoping to be able to compete against their friends with real

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Upcoming Games
Week Ending
4/6/18 - 4/12/18

Track
4/13- @ Florida 3 p.m. (Tom Jones Memorial)

Men's Tennis
4/14- vs #21 Palm Beach Atlantic 2 p.m.
4/19-@SSC Tournament (Bradenton. Fla.)

Women's Tennis
4/14- vs Palm Beach Atlantic 2 p.m.
4/19- @ SSC Tournament (Bradenton, Fla.)

Women's Golf
4/15- @ Sunshine State Conference Women's Golf Championship (Boca Raton, Fla.)
4/16- @ Sunshine State Conference Women's Golf Championship (Boca Raton, Fla.)

Men's Baseball
4/13- vs Rollins 6 p.m.
4/14- vs Rollins 1:30 p.m.
4/15- vs Rollins 12 p.m.

Men's Lacrosse
4/14- vs #18 Lynn 1 p.m. (Senior Night)
4/18- @ #9 Tampa 8 p.m.

Women's Lacrosse
4/14- @ #8/#9 Rollins 7:30 p.m.
4/18- vs #16/#18 Tampa 7:30 p.m.